However, a specific decision was taken to make the specified quota of direct recruitment in the higher grade Rs. 1600—2660 w.e.f. 15-5-1987 instead of in scale Rs. 1400—2300 in which the recruitment was done earlier.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) to (f) Some benches of Central Administrative Tribunal have given orders for extending the same higher grade to the earlier recruits. Special Leave Petitions have been filed against the orders in a few cases. These are pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the outcome is awaited.

Train service between West Bengal and different parts of North Eastern region via Bangladesh

4536. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to resume train services between West Bengal and different parts of North Eastern region including Agartala via Bangladesh;

(b) whether Government have been taking it up with the Bangladesh Government;

(c) if so, what is the result thereof; and

(d) if not, by when Government propose to open the dialogue with Bangladesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) A proposal to provide rail transit facilities through Bangladesh to the North Eastern region of India has been suggested to the Government of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has so far not agreed to provide this facility due to technical reasons.

Electrification of routes in Railways

4537. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3027 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 1992 and state:

(a) how the railway electrification compares with the Britain, Japan, Italy, China, Germany, France and the U.S.A.;

(b) what are the important trunk routes which have been electrified so far in the country; and

(c) by when the remaining trunk routes are likely to be electrified and the target date for the completion of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Country-wise position of electrification is as under:

Name of Country	Route Kms. electrified	% age route electrified
Britain	4910.7	29.61
Japan	15845.0	64.88
Italy	10492.0	54.81
China	5300.0	9.91
Germany	15775.2	36.66
France	12511.0	37.01
U.S.A.	2197.4	00.84
India	10809.0	17.3*

(Source : Jane's World Railways 1991-92)
*Position as on 1-4-1992.